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Published by the contributors to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates.

RIO GRANDE INDIAN FISHERMEN

Most of the Southwestern Indians will not eat fish, but the tribes along the Rio Grande have gotten over this prejudice if they ever had it. An explanation for the former non-use of fish is as follows: When the people came up out of the underworld through a lake in the north they wandered about looking for good places to live. When they came to the Rio Grande the leader made a bridge of Guacamayo feathers. Those persons who refused to cross are now the nomadic Indians, those who crossed safely are the Pueblo Indians, and those who fell in are the fish.

The methods of fishing are various, although snares and traps seem to be the most ancient. The snare is made of a horsehair loop tied to the end of a short stick. Lying on the bank the fisherman maneuvers this snare till it is directly in front of the fish, and then draws it up with a jerk. The fish, startled, shoots straight ahead and is caught. The Indians of Taos Pueblo are very skillful at fishing in this manner. The fish-hook has been acquired from the white man and is called a "pointed fish snare." Bone ones are sometimes made.

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